

**REMARKS**

Claims 23-30 are pending within this application. Claims 41-50 have been canceled for refiling in a proper continuation application. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and due consideration of these new claims are respectfully requested.

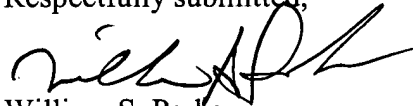
In view of the cancellation of the only rejected claims previously pending within this application, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims should no pass on to issue. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all previous rejections as well as entry and due consideration of the amendments above are therefore earnestly solicited.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of all of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and it is requested that this application be passed on to issue.

December 31, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 31, 2003, along with a postcard receipt.



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